



HR1182

LRB097 22127 GRL 70856 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Francis "Frank"
4 John Kania on the occasion of his 100th birthday on August 2,
5 2012; and

6 WHEREAS, Frank Kania was born on August 2, 1912; he is the
7 first child of Catherine (Swiderski) and Joseph Kania; he has 4
8 siblings, Johnny, Sophie, Eddie, and Eleanor; he married Anne
9 Smreczak on October 30, 1949, at St. Wenceslaus Church in
10 Chicago; their child, Joette, was born in January of 1952; and

11 WHEREAS, Frank Kania spent most of his life in Chicago; he
12 attended 3rd grade at St. Hyacinth Catholic School on West
13 Wolfram Street and served as an altar boy at the associated
14 church; he also attended the first general meeting of the
15 Eucharistic Congress at Soldier Field on June 21, 1926; and

16 WHEREAS, During the 1920s, Frank Kania worked with his
17 uncle, John Swiderski, as a part-time employee at his grocery
18 store/butcher shop; after he graduated from the 8th grade in
19 1927, he went to work for his uncle full-time in order to help
20 support his family; in 1937, he bought the grocery business
21 from his uncle and renamed it "Kania's Food Shop"; and

1 WHEREAS, Frank Kania was inducted into the United States
2 Army on April 29, 1942; he began his service to his country in
3 Rockford, where he served in active duty for one day; he later
4 went to training at the Jefferson Barracks in St. Louis before
5 he was placed with the 5th Army/Air Corps, 46th Service Group
6 at Angel Island, California; soon after his placement, his unit
7 traveled to Australia; drawing on his experience as a butcher,
8 he was soon inducted into the unit's food-preparation unit;
9 after a year in Australia, his unit was moved to the Dobbura
10 base at Port Moresby, New Guinea; while there, he was assigned
11 to work on a crane unloading supplies; he also served as a
12 photographer for various entertainment events on the base,
13 during which he took many photographs of Bob Hope, Gary Cooper,
14 Phyllis Brooks, Una Merkle, Jerry Colonna, dancer Patty Thomas,
15 Frances Langford, and guitarist Tony Romano; he also created an
16 extensive photo documentary of New Guinea native life during
17 his time there; in 1944, his unit was moved to Manila, the
18 Philippines, in anticipation of the massive Allied invasion of
19 Japan; fortunately, the war had ended before any such invasion
20 was to take place; he was honorably discharged from service on
21 October 19, 1945 at Fort Sheridan where he was originally
22 inducted; and

23 WHEREAS, After the war, Frank Kania returned to the grocery
24 business that his uncle had maintained for him during his Army
25 service; after marrying Anne, they moved into her family's

1 apartment building on Ridgeway Avenue; in 1951, he sold his
2 grocery business and went to work as a butcher for National
3 Tea; he subsequently became a manager of the meat department
4 and later the fish department, where he remained until his
5 retirement in 1979; he remained in his home on Linden Avenue
6 until 2005, when he moved in with his daughter; and

7 WHEREAS, Frank Kania has served as a model of hard work,
8 integrity, and dedication for his family, friends, and
9 colleagues throughout his life; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
11 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
12 we congratulate Francis "Frank" John Kania on the occasion of
13 his 100th birthday and wish him many happy and healthy years to
14 come; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
16 presented to Frank Kania as a symbol of our esteem and respect.